

NATO

unsatisfactory substitute for real security. A more stable alternative is necessary.

Coincidental with the search for a solution to this military problem is the necessity that nations recognize the social pressures now building up around the world. We cannot ignore the forces of history now on the move in Asia, Africa, and South America. It is the sorry record of mankind that, through history, there has always been recurring resistance to arms control and the avoidance of violence as a means of change; and of the failure to recognize promptly social elements which cry out for relief.

Our goal must be one of an international world community which controls conflict but which at the same time permits elements in the community to satisfy their need for change and progress as circumstances require. A balance must be struck between the demands of nations and the needs of the world community. In order to ensure opportunity for such a balance, we must imaginatively and resolutely seek arms control and disarmament agreements.

Canada's record at the Eighteen Nation Disarmament Conference is an outstanding one. The contribution made by General E.L.M. Burns is likely unsurpassed by that of any other single person. It is the intention of this government that our foreign policy should provide for a growing investment of intellectual resources in this important area, and that one of the most important foreign relations tasks in which Canada is engaged is that which is directed to arms limitations and disarmament.

We think that our defence policy decisions are consistent with this scheme of priorities. We believe that a careful evaluation of Canada's present NATO military commitment, including the tactical nuclear role now assigned to our forces is a necessary first step. Our acts must not be shown to be inconsistent with our aims. Underway at the moment is an examination of the means by which our new defence policy will be instituted in order to meet these aims.

[English]

The world, Mr. Speaker, is embarked upon a revolutionary period which dwarfs by comparison the changes of the past centuries. Our era combines a technological revolution with a revolution of rising expectations of billions of persons who for the first time in history are projecting themselves to the forefront of our consciences as they seek their proper place in the international community. This is

[Mr. Trudeau.]

the excitement, this is the challenge, recognized by so many of our youth. This is the need which tens of thousands of young persons in Ottawa and Hull alone recognized last Saturday as they participated in the "Miles for Millions" march.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Trudeau: We as Canadians would not be fulfilling our potential for good if we remained aloof from these events. This government intends to reorganize our resources and our energies to play a role in the world as it is, not to dream of things as they were. Those in this house and elsewhere who say that our defence policy represents a turn toward isolationism are proclaiming only that, in their fixation on old wars and on old problems, they are isolated—isolated from the world of now and the world of the future.

Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West): You wouldn't know.

Mr. Trudeau: Canada has the opportunity to play a role in the world of today, Mr. Speaker, a role which, hopefully, will act as an incentive to other like-minded states, a role which will emphasize the need to devote energies to the reduction of tension and the reversal of the arms race—

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Trudeau: —a role which will acknowledge that humanity is increasingly subject to perils from sources in addition to an east-west conflict centred in Europe, and which will permit us to make the intellectual and resource investments necessary to do our part to meet those perils. This is why we are insisting that our defence policy be directed by our foreign policy, and not vice-versa. This is why we are placing emphasis on imaginative concepts of assistance to developing countries. This is why we are insisting that our defence policy be rational and not a rationalization.

● (3:30 p.m.)

The government, Mr. Speaker, recognizes that the challenge of future world social and political events will not be met by a stagnant, cautious attitude. We must anticipate, not react; we must think, not conform; we must have courage to discard conventional wisdom in our quest for a secure and peaceful world. If this requires change, so be it.

Mr. Lewis: Amen.